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## Message from the Director

This issue of the OESW newsletter features seven new OESW fact sheets on the gender composition of Minnesota's elected offices.

Women are significantly under-represented in Minnesota's elected offices. Of particular note is the gender breakdown of Minnesota's 87 county boards—powerful governing bodies that had expenditures in 2012 totaling \$6 billion, and that administer such areas as child protection, social services, nursing homes, public health services and economic development. Fifty-one percent of county boards have no women; 84 percent have no or only one woman; only 3% have a majority of women commissioners.

The fact sheets also provide a more in-depth look at women in Minnesota's Legislature—by chamber (House and Senate), age, urban v. suburban v. Greater Minnesota, and by political party.

A special thank you to OESW intern Rose Hartnett, who is on her way back to Rutgers University, for her excellent work in developing these fact sheets. My appreciation also to Lee Meilleur and Troy Lawrence, with LCC-GIS, for developing the map of gender composition of county boards.

These fact sheets are also available on the [OESW website](#).

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Its purpose is to provide information to legislators, legislative staff, and the community on priority and emerging women's economic issues.

Please send us your suggestions to [barbara.battiste@oesw.leg.mn](mailto:barbara.battiste@oesw.leg.mn) and visit our [OESW website](#), [Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter](#).



*Barbara Battiste, Director, Office on the Economic Status of Women*

## MN Women in U.S. Congress



■ Women 20% ■ Men 80%

10 Minnesota Seats in Congress

## Women in the Legislature



■ Women 33% ■ Men 67%

201 seats in MN State Legislature

## Women on County Boards



■ Women 14% ■ Men 86%

87 Minnesota Counties

## Women Mayors



■ Women 16% ■ Men 84%

825 Minnesota Cities

Best available data; may not reflect recent changes.  
League of Minnesota Cities

## Women on City Councils



■ Women 27% ■ Men 73%

Total of 3,481 City Council Members in MN

Best available data; may not reflect recent changes.  
League of Minnesota Cities

## Women on School Boards



■ Women 40% ■ Men 58% ■ Unknown 2%

Total of 2,176 School Board Members in MN

Best available data; may not reflect recent changes.  
Minnesota School Board Association

# Fact Sheet Series: Women in Minnesota's Elected Offices 2015

## Selected Offices

### Congress

Senators



Representatives



### State Constitutional Offices

Governor\*



Lieutenant Governor



Attorney General



State Auditor

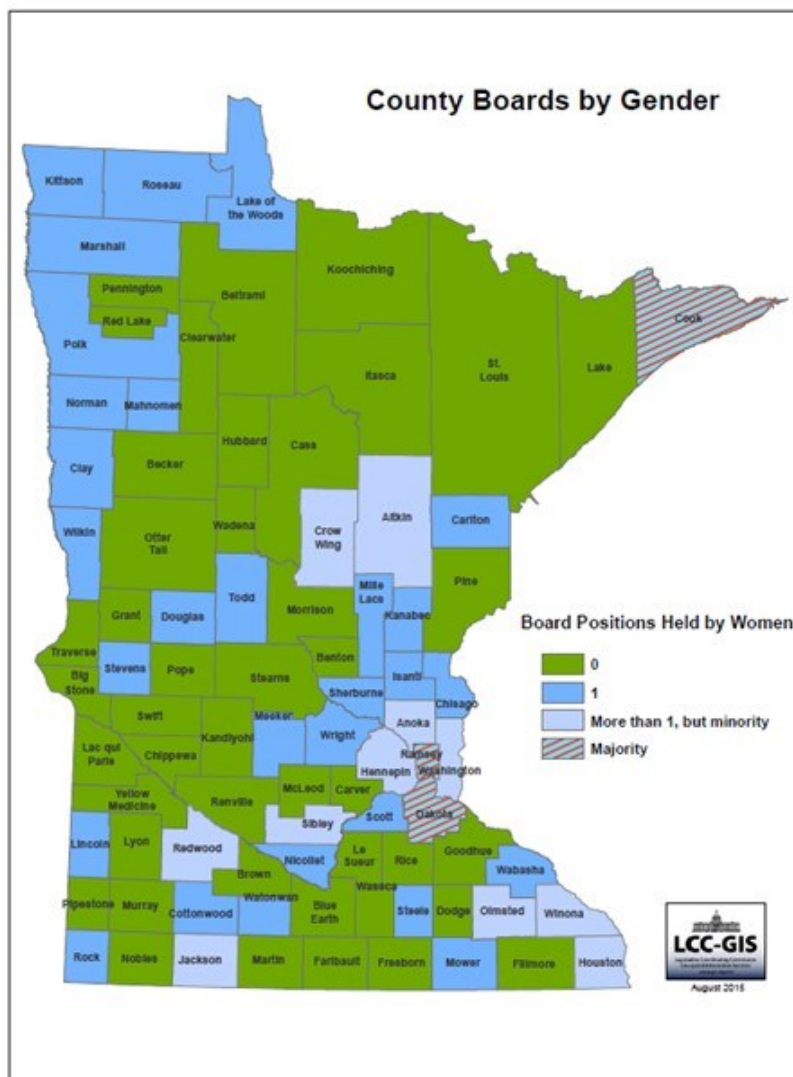


Secretary of State

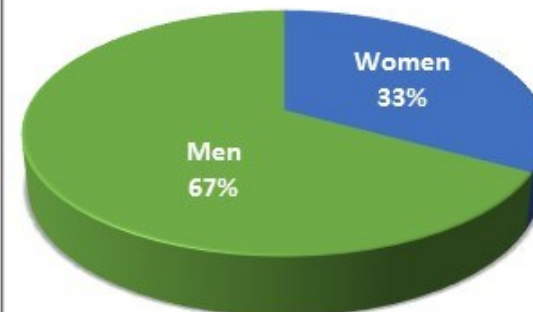


\*A woman has never been Governor of Minnesota

### County Boards by Gender

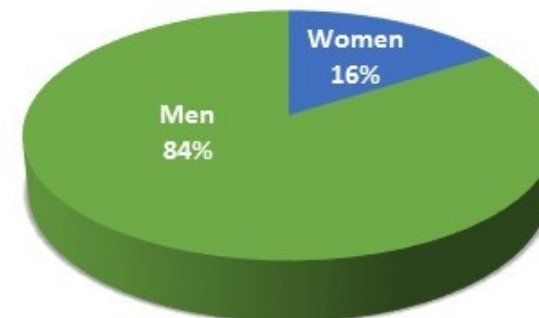


### Minnesota Legislature 2015



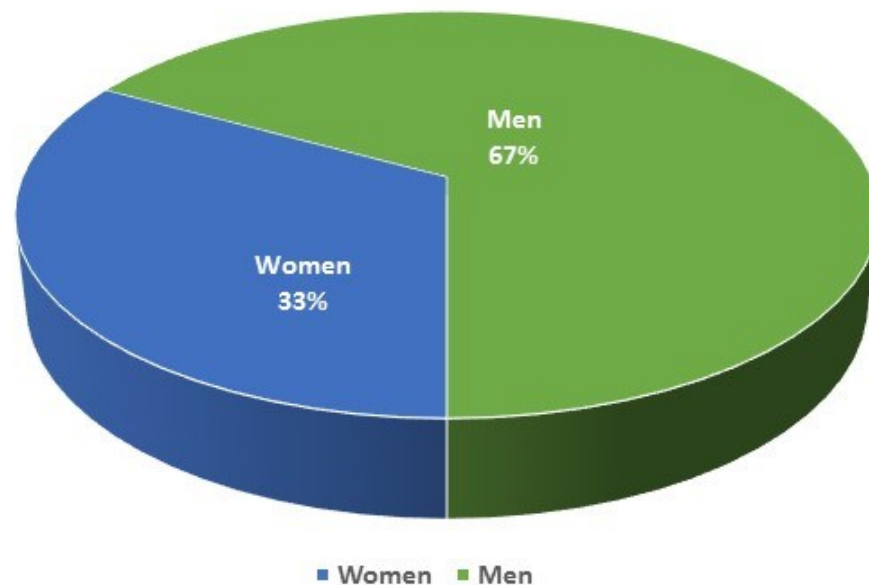
\*201 Legislators in Minnesota

### Minnesota Mayors 2015

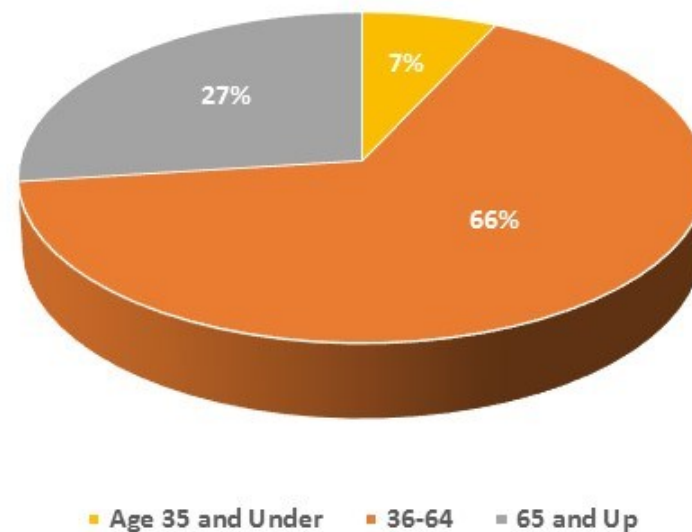


\*825 Cities in Minnesota

Women in MN Legislature



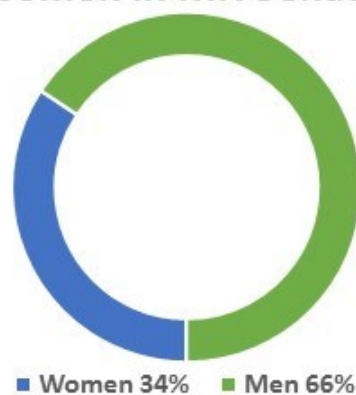
Women in the Legislature by Age



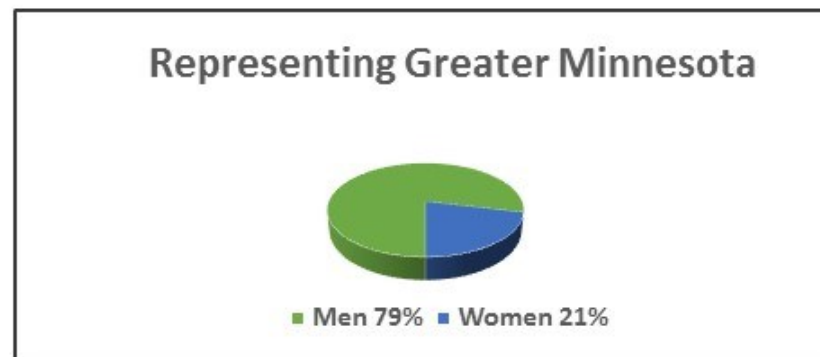
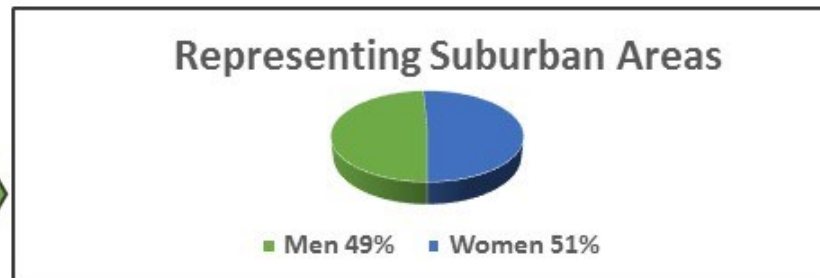
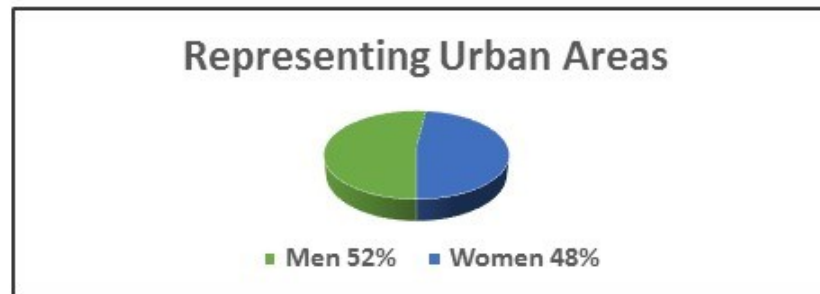
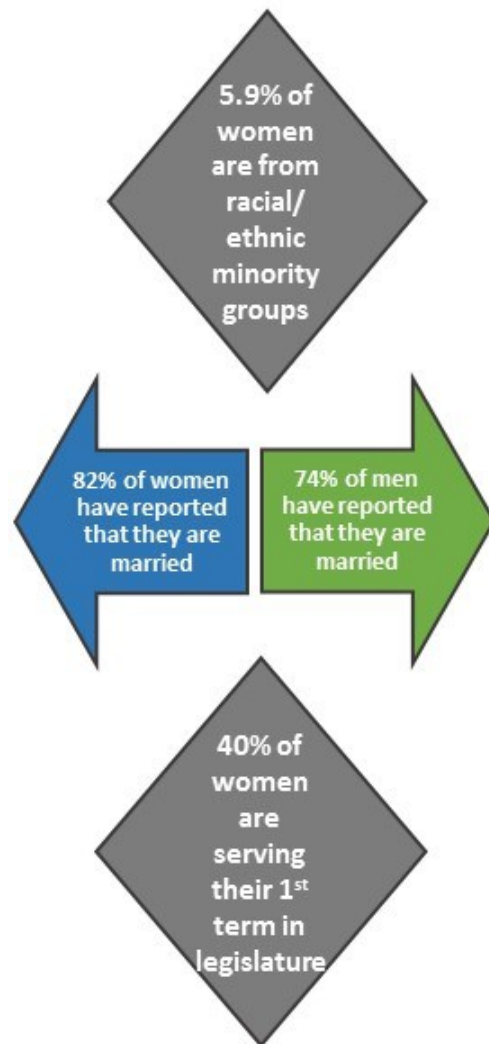
Women in the MN House



Women in MN Senate

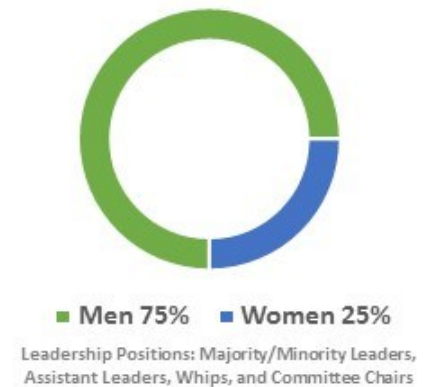




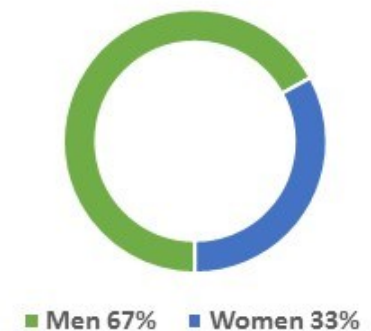


Distinctions made from Thrive MSP2040 Community Designations Map by the Metropolitan Council

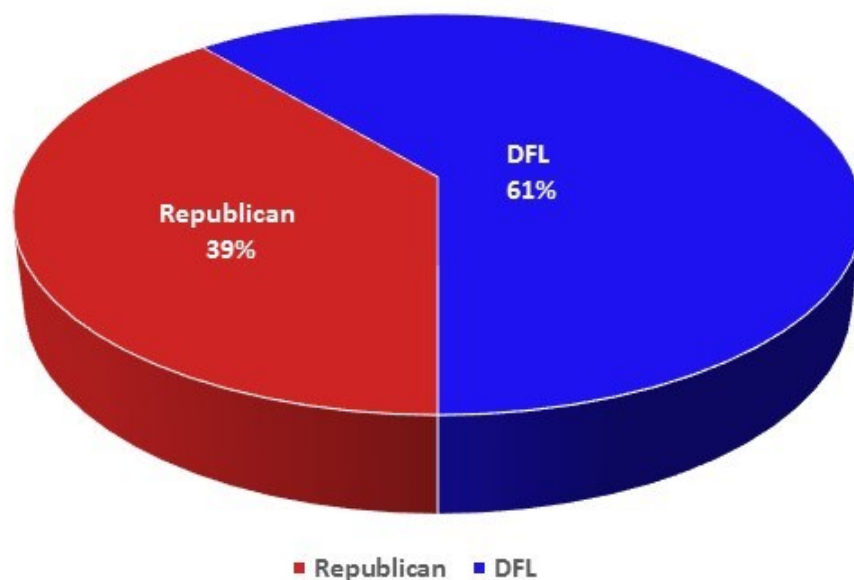
### Leadership Positions



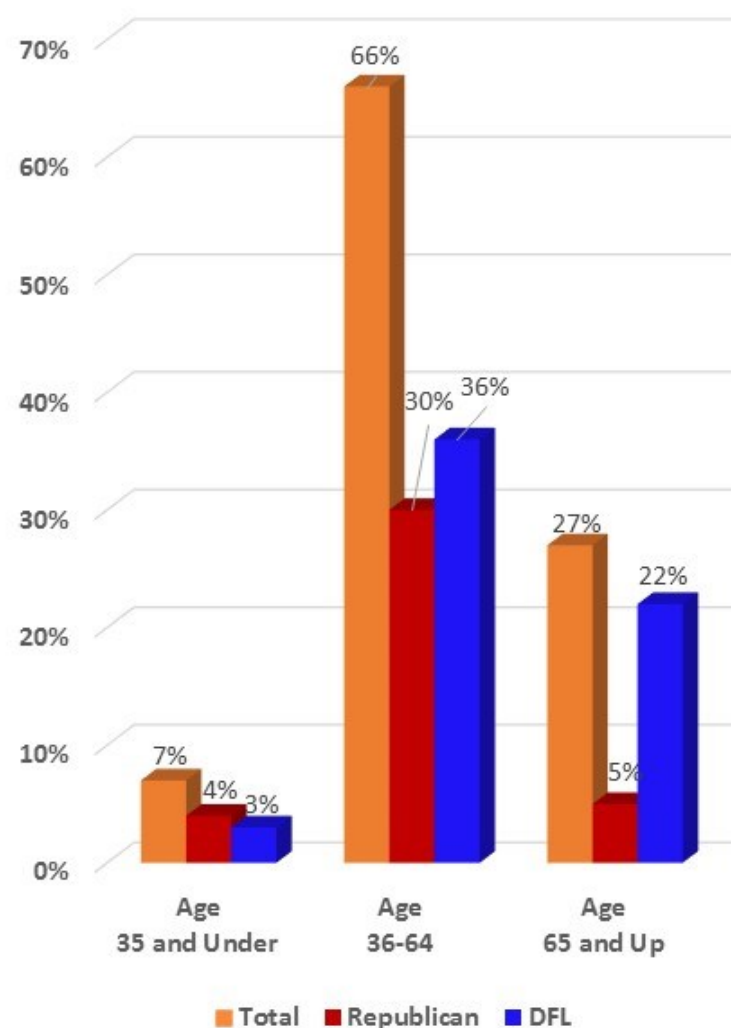
### Women in the Legislature



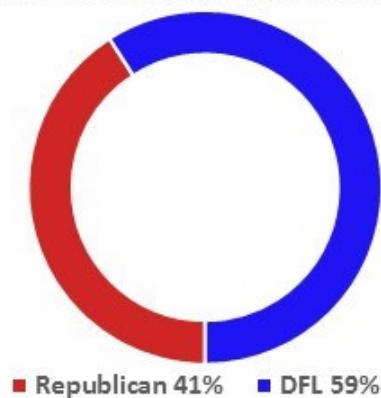
Women in MN Legislature



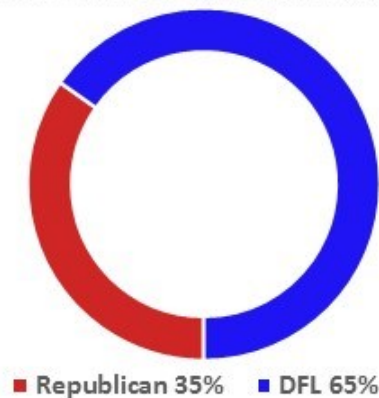
Age of Women Legislators



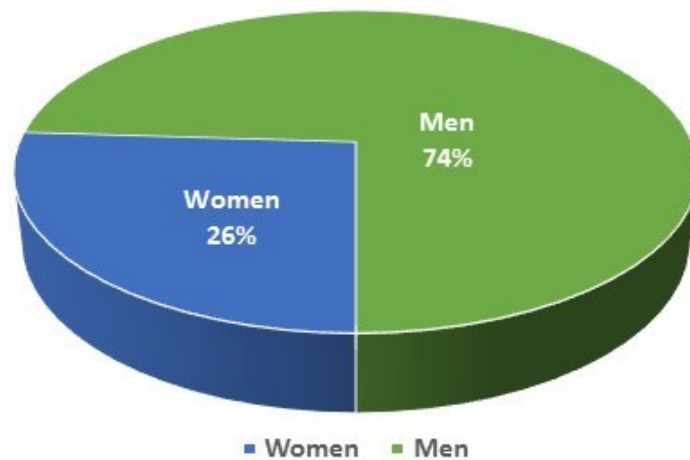
Women in MN House



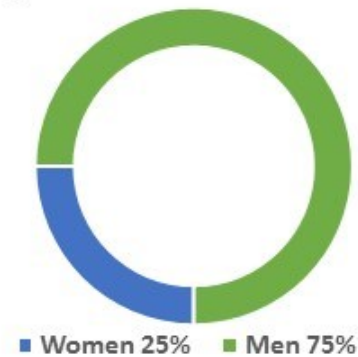
Women in MN Senate



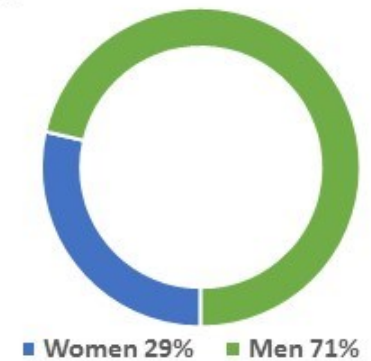
Republican Women in Legislature



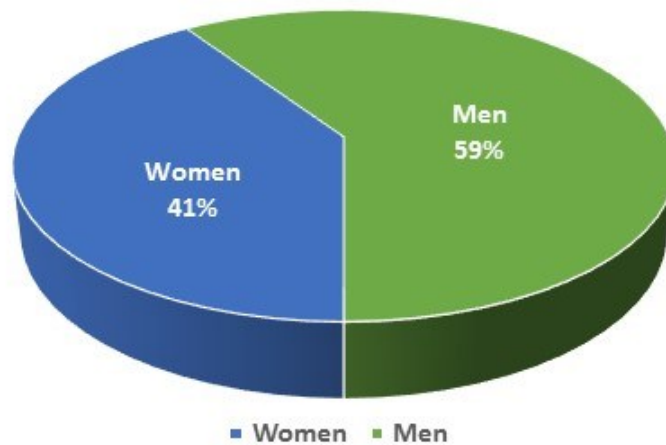
Republican Women in House



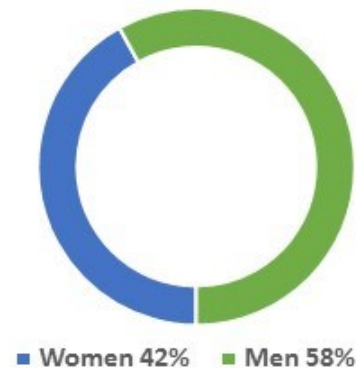
Republican Women in Senate



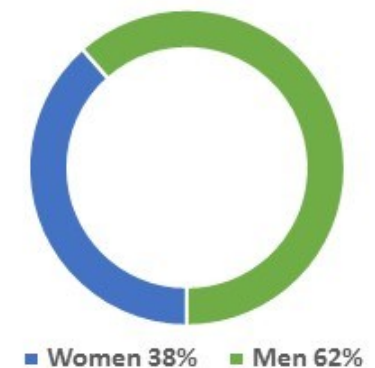
DFL Women in Legislature



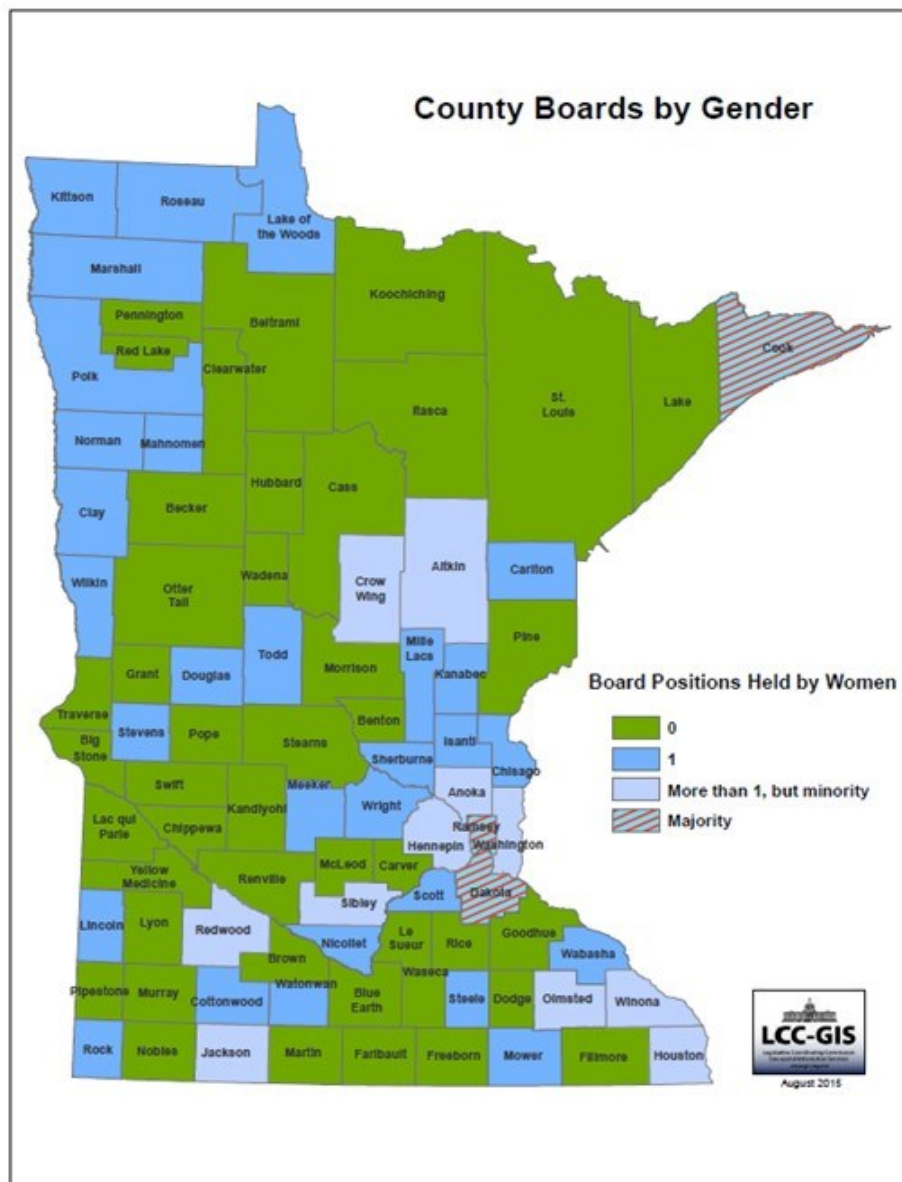
DFL Women in House



DFL Women in Senate







51% of Minnesota's Counties have no women on the County Board

84% of Minnesota's Counties have no or only one woman on the County Board

3% of Minnesota's Counties have a majority of women on the County Board

#### Facts about Minnesota's County Boards\*

- Of the 87 counties, 81 have five-member boards; six have seven-member boards—Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey and St. Louis.
- County board commissioners are public elected officials, serving four-year, staggered terms.
- Counties administer social services, corrections, child protection, public safety, library services, hospitals, nursing homes, public health services, planning and zoning, economic development, parks & recreation, water quality, and solid waste management.
- In 2012, expenditures by Minnesota counties totaled \$6 billion. Counties provided 57% (more than \$204M) of the total statewide funding for child welfare services, invested \$73M in economic development and housing, and spent \$890M in building roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure.

\*Association of Minnesota Counties. *Why Minnesota Counties Matter!* February 2014 <http://googl/7TJiaQ>